
LEVERAGE
Cure Alzheimer's FUND
15 years of breakthrough research

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Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world.

—ARCHIMEDES, ANCIENT GREEK MATHEMATICIAN

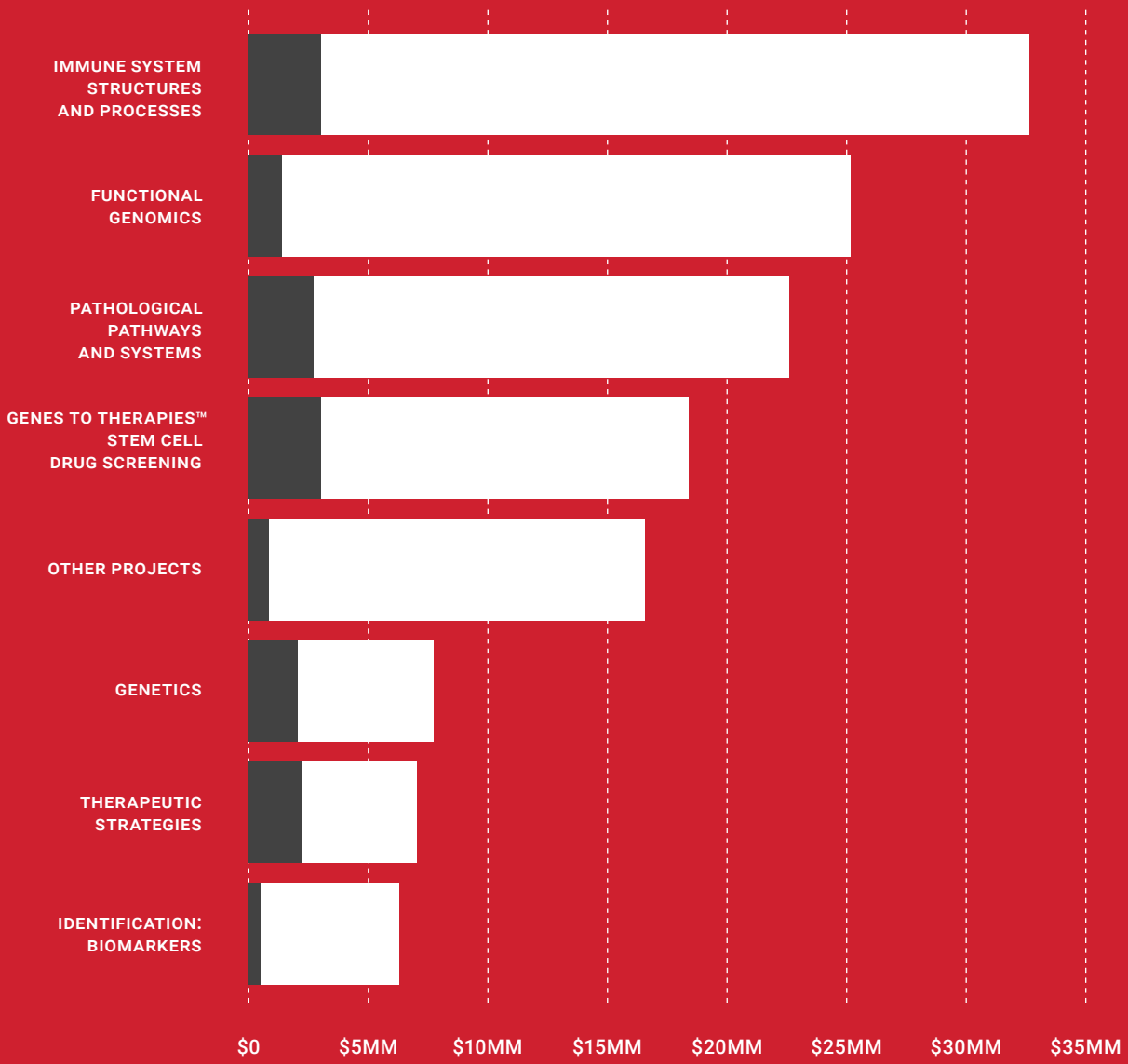
CURE ALZHEIMER'S FUND FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

In 2004, the founders of Cure Alzheimer's Fund (CureAlz) embraced as a core tenet that the best way to accelerate potential therapies against Alzheimer's disease would be to support fundamental proof-of-concept research into its causes. They recognized that established ideas and orthodox approaches could find funding within the traditional system, but that scientists with well-reasoned but unique or unconventional ideas regarding the contributing factors to Alzheimer's disease struggled to obtain the funding necessary to test their hypotheses. CureAlz would take bold, smart risks on promising early research, with every project paying off in knowledge shared with the entire field. Once validated through our seed grants, these ideas may receive follow-on funding from the National Institutes of Health / National Institute of Aging (NIH/NIA) and other institutions far beyond what our resources alone would be able to provide.

A second and equally important tenet was the importance of advancing the entire field even though CureAlz can fund only a select group of investigators. CureAlz provides funding for research intended to be shared with and published to the entire scientific community, and requires open communication and collaboration across its network of funded and affiliated researchers. As a result, every project returns benefits far beyond the advancement of just one lab or just one proprietary molecule. Similarly, the animal models commissioned by CureAlz are available to all scientific labs, not only to projects we fund.

The advantages achieved with substantial follow-on funding, science sharing and collaboration are considerable. A few examples are included here. We thank our very generous donors who have made these investments possible, and our researchers who have been truly remarkable and passionate leaders in the Alzheimer's disease community.

	CURE ALZHEIMER'S FUND TOTAL	NIH TOTAL
IMMUNE SYSTEM STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES	$3,156,855	$29,857,934
FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS	$1,503,578	$24,026,654
PATHOLOGICAL PATHWAYS AND SYSTEMS	$2,816,954	$20,028,127
GENES TO THERAPIES™ STEM CELL DRUG SCREENING	$3,115,268	$15,493,763
OTHER PROJECTS	$938,862	$15,859,825
GENETICS	$2,147,500	$5,678,834
THERAPEUTIC STRATEGIES	$2,363,750	$4,773,849
IDENTIFICATION: BIOMARKERS	$586,738	$5,820,266



LEVERAGE

$17 MILLION IN RESEARCH LEADS TO $121 MILLION FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Our grants for proof-of-concept research provide necessary data and de-risking, leading to follow-on funding from NIH / NIA and other public and private funders. As an illustration of this effectiveness, our 2018 research portfolio with distributions totaling $17 million has already led to additional funding from the NIH / NIA of $121 million.

LEVERAGE

OPEN PHILANTHROPY

In 2018, we introduced Open Philanthropy, a nonprofit interested in initiating Alzheimer's research, to our Research Leadership Group. This resulted in Open Philanthropy granting $10.5 million over three years to five members of our Research Leadership Group organized within a mini-consortium to study the microbiome and its role in Alzheimer's disease.

AMYLYX

In 2019, we partnered with the Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation to finance a stage two trial with a drug developed by Amylyx; our participation has allowed the trial to double its originally planned size. In May 2020, Amylyx announced full enrollment of this PEGASUS Alzheimer's trial, which is seeking to improve cognitive function in patients with mild Alzheimer's disease. Amylyx also announced late in 2019 that its trial of the same therapeutic in patients with ALS achieved statistically significant benefit compared to those who received a placebo.

ALZHEIMER'S-IN-A-DISH

One of the critical challenges of Alzheimer's disease research has been resolved from Cure Alzheimer's Fund's grants: the need for a research model of human Alzheimer's disease that contains all of the interacting cellular players and generates the amyloid-beta plaques and neurofibrillary tau tangles of Alzheimer's pathology. Drs. Rudy Tanzi and Doo Yeon Kim created the Alzheimer's-in-a-Dish system, which uses neurons derived from human donors and extends to innate immune interactions and a blood-brain barrier. This tool has an extraordinary range of uses, from assessing the impact of different genotypes to high throughput testing of known drugs for their ability to reduce pathology. Rather than pursuing commercialization at the expense of accessibility, Drs. Kim and Tanzi published the blueprint for this tool, making it available to all labs for their use.

As an example, testing in Alzheimer's-in-a-Dish showed AZ Therapies (not funded by CureAlz) that the actual mechanism of action for its drug in development was not what it expected, vital information needed as it moved toward clinical trials. This drug is now in a phase three trial, and results are expected in 2021.

ENGINEERED MOUSE MODELS

Animal models are vital to understanding complex diseases like Alzheimer's, but they are only as informative as they are good imitations of humans. Engineered mouse models are often developed with human genes so that scientists can learn why these genes impact the people who carry them. Cure Alzheimer's Fund has commissioned a program of specialized mouse model development that funded scientists have used to illuminate the role of key genes identified from human genetic studies. CureAlz also makes these models available free of cost to labs and scientists we do not fund, extending the value of these tools to the entire research community. As an example of the importance of this tool sharing, humanized APOE3 and APOE4 mouse models from CureAlz are now in use in both labs we fund and those we do not.

50,000

DONORS

70

FUNDED INSTITUTIONS

480

RESEARCH GRANTS

615

RESEARCH PAPERS PUBLISHED

170

FUNDED RESEARCHERS

34,500

PAPER CITATIONS

$113,000,000

RESEARCH FUNDED

Through September 2020

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15 years of breakthrough research

SUPPORT OUR RESEARCH

There are many ways to donate to the research of Alzheimer's disease.

ONLINE | Donate directly from our website; please visit www.CureAlz.org/donate.

BY MAIL | Please make your check payable to Cure Alzheimer's Fund and mail to the address below.

BY TELEPHONE | Please call 781-237-3800.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS | Donors with funds held by Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, or Greater Kansas Community Foundation can use the DAF Direct form to process donations directly from our website www.CureAlz.org/giving/ways-to-donate/. For all other DAF distributions, please mail your check to the address below.

PLANNED GIVING | A number of planned giving options are available, some of which may provide tax incentives. For information, please visit our website www.CureAlz.org/giving/ways-to-donate/.

To consider other ways to give, please visit www.CureAlz.org/giving/ways-to-donate/, contact Laurel Lyle at LLyle@CureAlz.org, or call 781-237-3800.

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